

REMARKS

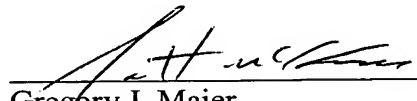
Favorable consideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-16 are pending in the present Application. Claims 5 and 16 have been amended. The amendments correct cosmetic matters of form only, thus Applicants submit that the scope of these claims have not been narrowed.<sup>1</sup> Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced via this Amendment.

Accordingly, examination on the merits of Claims 5-16 is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)

Scott A. McKeown  
Registration No. 42,866

I:\ATTY\SAM\PROSECUTION WORK\245112\APPL.SUPP\PRELIMAM.DOC

---

<sup>1</sup> This comment is made in view of the recent Festo decision which may limit the applicability of the Doctrine of Equivalents for amendments related to patentability.